

Remarks

The final Office Action dated August 9, 2007 and the Advisory Action dated October 30, 2007 have been carefully reviewed, and the foregoing amendments and the following remarks have been made in consequence thereof.

Claims 1-25 and 27-41 are now pending in this application. Claims 1-25 and 27-41 stand rejected. Claim 26 has been canceled.

The Advisory Action asserts at Paragraph 13 that Applicant has failed to disclose support for the foregoing amendments. Applicant respectfully submits that the recitation of “the at least one available new building option to be electronically accessible to a second user upon electronic transmission of a valid authorization by the second user” is supported throughout Applicant’s specification, for example at Page 7, line 27, through Page 8, line 2, which describes that “[a]fter the Web page(s) is created, and made accessible on the Web site, the homebuyer is provided with access to the Web page(s) ... by supplying the homebuyer with a user ID number and a password which the homebuyer enters prior to gaining access to the Web site.”

Additionally, the Advisory Action asserts at Paragraph 13 that Applicant’s Amendment After Final Rejection fails to address Examiner’s responses in the final Office Action. To more clearly address those responses, Applicant respectfully submits that Fukuda does not describe or suggest a method or system for allowing “the at least one available new building option to be electronically accessible to a second user upon electronic transmission of a valid authorization by the second user.” Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that, in view of the foregoing amendment, Claims 1-25 and 27-41 are patentable over Fukuda.

More specifically, the rejection of Claims 1-25 and 27-41 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by “Networked VR System: Kitchen Layout Design for Customers” by Fukuda et al. (hereinafter referred to as “Fukuda”) is respectfully traversed.

Fukuda describes a networked virtual reality kitchen design system that allows customers to create a preliminary kitchen design on the Internet and edit the preliminary design in three-dimensional space. After reviewing and editing the preliminary design on the internet, customers are able to send the preliminary design to a showroom and schedule a final review of the design with a design specialist in the showroom. Notably, Fukuda neither describes nor suggests causing at least one available new building option to be electronically accessible to a user upon electronic transmission of a valid authorization by the user.

Claim 1 recites a method of managing building options including “obtaining from a first user an indication of at least one available new building option for constructing a new building; causing the at least one available new building option to be electronically accessible to a second user upon electronic transmittal of a valid authorization by the second user; providing information electronically on the at least one available new building option to the second user; obtaining electronically from the second user an indication of at least one choice from among the at least one available new building option; and providing the indication of the at least one choice to the first user.”

Fukuda does not describe or suggest a method of managing building options as recited in Claim 1. More specifically, Fukuda does not describe or suggest a method of managing building options that includes obtaining from a first user an indication of at least one available new building option for constructing a new building, and causing the at least one available new building option to be electronically accessible to a second user upon electronic transmission of a valid authorization by the second user. Rather, in contrast to the present invention, Fukuda describes a networked virtual reality kitchen design system that allows customers to create a preliminary kitchen design on the Internet, edit the preliminary design in three-dimensional space, send the preliminary design to a showroom, and schedule a final review of the design with a design specialist in the showroom.

Accordingly, Claim 1 is submitted as being patentable over Fukuda.

Claims 2-14 depend, directly or indirectly, from Claim 1. When the recitations of Claims 2-14 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 1, Applicant submits that dependent Claims 2-14 are likewise patentable over Fukuda.

Claim 15 recites a system of managing building options including “a first processor adapted to obtain from a first user an indication of at least one available new building option; and a second processor adapted to allow the at least one available new building option to be electronically accessible to a second user upon electronic transmittal of a valid authorization by the second user, said second processor adapted to obtain electronically from said second user an indication of at least one choice from among the at least one available new building option, and said second processor adapted to provide the at least one choice to said first user.”

Fukuda does not describe or suggest a system of managing building options as recited in Claim 15. More specifically, Fukuda does not describe or suggest a system of managing building options that includes a first processor adapted to obtain from a first user an indication of at least one available new building option and a second processor adapted to allow the at least one available new building option to be electronically accessible to a second user upon electronic transmission of a valid authorization by the second user. Rather, in contrast to the present invention, Fukuda describes a networked virtual reality kitchen design system that allows customers to create a preliminary kitchen design on the internet, edit the preliminary design in three-dimensional space, send the preliminary design to a showroom, and schedule a final review of the design with a design specialist in the showroom.

Accordingly, Claim 15 is submitted as being patentable over Fukuda.

Claims 16-25 depend, directly or indirectly, from Claim 15. When the recitations of Claims 16-25 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 15, Applicant submits that dependent Claims 16-25 are likewise patentable over Fukuda.

Claim 27 recites at least one program storage device readable by a machine, tangibly embodying at least one program of instructions executable by the machine to perform a method of managing building options, the method including “obtaining from a first user an

indication of at least one available new building option for constructing a new building; causing the at least one available option to be electronically accessible to a second user upon electronic transmittal of a valid authorization by the second user; providing information electronically on the at least one available new building option to the second user; obtaining electronically from the second user an indication of at least one choice from among the at least one available new building option; and providing the indication of the at least one choice to the first user.”

Fukuda does not describe or suggest a method of managing building options as recited in Claim 27. More specifically, Fukuda does not describe or suggest a method of managing building options including obtaining from a first user an indication of at least one available new building option for constructing a new building and causing the at least one available option to be electronically accessible to a second user upon electronic transmission of a valid authorization by the second user. Rather, in contrast to the present invention, Fukuda describes a networked virtual reality kitchen design system that allows customers to create a preliminary kitchen design on the internet, edit the preliminary design in three-dimensional space, send the preliminary design to a showroom, and schedule a final review of the design with a design specialist in the showroom.

Accordingly, Claim 27 is submitted as being patentable over Fukuda.

Claims 28-40 depend, directly or indirectly, from Claim 27. When the recitations of Claims 28-40 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 27, Applicant submits that dependent Claims 28-40 are likewise patentable over Fukuda.

Claim 41 recites a system for managing building options including “means for obtaining from a first user an indication of at least one available new building option for constructing a new building; means for causing the at least one available new building option to be electronically accessible to a second user upon electronic transmittal of a valid authorization by the second user; means for providing information electronically on the at least one new building option to said second user; means for obtaining electronically from

said second user an indication of at least one choice from among the at least one available new building option; and means for providing the indication of the at least one choice to said first user.”

Fukuda does not describe or suggest a system for managing building options as recited in Claim 41. More specifically, Fukuda does not describe or suggest a system for managing building options that includes means for obtaining from a first user an indication of at least one available new building option for constructing a new building and means for causing the at least one available new building option to be electronically accessible to a second user upon electronic transmission of a valid authorization by the second user. Rather, in contrast to the present invention, Fukuda describes a networked virtual reality kitchen design system that allows customers to create a preliminary kitchen design on the internet, edit the preliminary design in three-dimensional space, send the preliminary design to a showroom, and schedule a final review of the design with a design specialist in the showroom.

Accordingly, Claim 41 is submitted as being patentable over Fukuda.

Accordingly, for at least the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully requests that the Section 102 rejection of Claims 1-25 and 27-41 be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all of the claims now active in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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